

Amendment
U.S. Patent Appln. No. 09/275,941

At page 2 of the Action, claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ahlheim *et al.* (Makromol. Chem. 193(3), p. 779-797).

Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection has been overcome by the amendment to claim 1 and the cancellation of claim 4.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

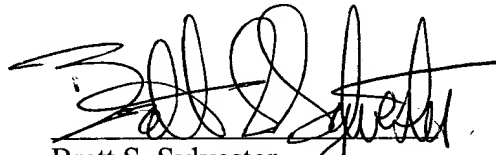
Claims 2-3 and 5-9 are objected to as depending on a rejected claim, i.e., claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment to claim 1 overcomes the objection to claims 2-3 and 5-9.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the objection to claims 2-3 and 5-9.

Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Brett S. Sylvester
Registration No. 32,765

SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN,
MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

Date: February 22, 2001

APPENDIX

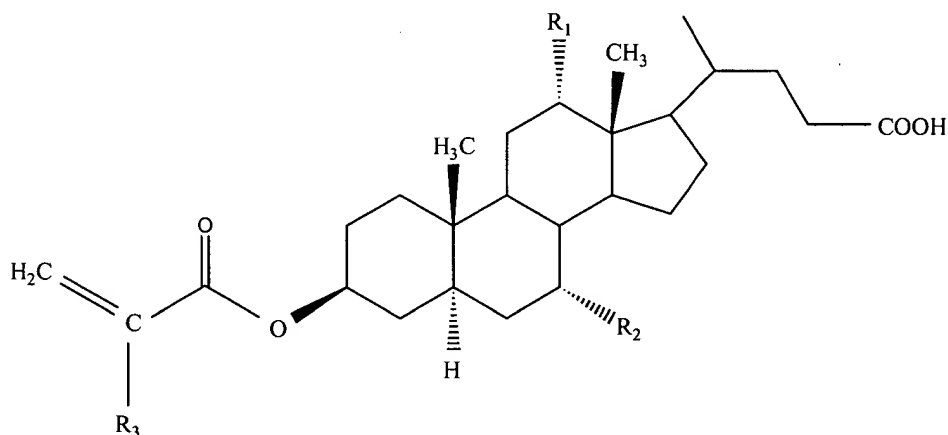
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 4 and 10 are canceled.

Claim 1 is amended as follows:

1. (twice amended) A polymerizable (meth)acrylic acid ester compound for an alkali-soluble resin represented by the following formula (I):



wherein R_1 and R_2 each independently [represent] represents a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl group[;], and R_3 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, provided that R_3 represents a hydrogen atom when R_1 and R_2 each represents a hydroxyl group.